

QUESTION - Do you have any comment on the charges made by various members of Congress during the past week to the effect that the Cuban build-up is a great deal larger than your Administration has revealed? Do you agree ~~that some of the statements by members of Congress~~ that some of the statements by members of Congress have been irresponsible?

FACTS - Because Cuba is a closed society, there are a great many rumors regarding the level of Communist build-up in that country. The intelligence community probably hears as many of these rumors as anybody else but has better facilities for checking on them and for evaluating information. As I said in my last press conference, our surveillance of Cuba is conducted daily and I believe that the intelligence services of the government can best provide us an accurate evaluation of the build-up there.

Specific comments of the Defense Department regarding statements of Senators Keating and Thurmond, Representative Bruce and Senator Dirksen are attached.